

Spring 2007
Newsletter

ABSWE

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Karen Hester
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Ramona Smith
Registration Coordinator

Individual

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Upcoming State Holiday's

April 23, 2007

May 28, 2007

June 4, 2007

July 4, 2007

Please note that
the Board Office
will be closed on
these days.

Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners 334/242-5860 or 1-888-879-3672

View from the Chair

by Jason R. Cowart, LGSW



The dogwoods are starting to bloom, the grass is beginning to turn green, yellow pollen is building on the hood of my vehicle, and the air is getting warmer. Add it all up and you know winter is over and spring has begun. So as we begin the yearly ritual (some of us) of spring cleaning and reorganizing, make it a point to look at your license and examine the month and year of renewal. Check your CEUs. Although Brenda tries to make a point of sending a reminder that your license is set for renewal, it is not a requirement that board staff do this. Keeping up with our license is our responsibility, and the board regrets having to inform individuals they must retake the ASWB examination when their license has expired due to oversight.

Also, as if our lives aren't busy enough, take time to read the ethical standards of social work which are found in the social work Administrative Code on the board's website. A due attention to these principles will make for an honorable career.

"The struggle which you describe you experience between doing what you ought and what you desire is common to all. You have only always to do what is right. It will become easier by practice...and you will always enjoy in the midst of your trials the pleasure of an approving conscience. That will be worth everything else." – Robert E. Lee

Protecting the public,

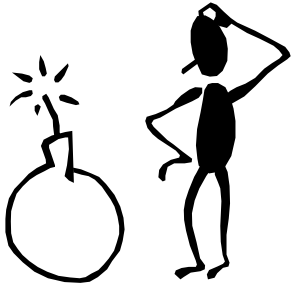
Jason

Houston...we have a problem...

2006 ASWB Examination Pass Rate

Level	National	Alabama
Bachelor	77.5	55.1
Masters	74.3	54.6
Clinical	73.6	55.4

The above information is based on first-time test takers in each of the three levels. This information is provided to the Board each year. Currently the Board and the Social Work Educational Institutions are working together to find a solution to this dilemma



"The Board appreciates the time and interest that was shown at the Public Hearing on February 23, 2007."

Recent Changes to the Administrative Code

The February 23rd Public Hearing of which each of you were notified went as planned. Several interested parties were in attendance to express their opinions on the subject, and we were very grateful for their participation in this endeavor. The following changes were approved and are in effect April 12, 2007:

Chapter 850-X-3 "Should the LBSW change their field of practice after their initial 24 months of required supervision, then the LBSW would be required to repeat only six months of supervision in the new position." Previously, the LBSW was required to repeat the entire 24 months.

Chapter 850-X-4 allows on-line renewals and strikes the requirement for References from the Administrative Code. Both were already in practice, so this just puts the action in the code.

Chapter 850-X-5 allows licensees renewing their license on-line to pay by credit card. Hopefully this will open the door in the future to allowing licensees who wish to renew by paper application to also pay by credit card.

Chapter 850-X-6 clearly states that a person must possess the LGSW before that person can be granted the LCSW. Also from that Chapter the suspension of 11 months has been **removed** for persons who fail the exam three times within a one year period.

Chapter 850-X-8 the words "which are not primarily procedural or administrative" were stricken from (5) (d) section relating to Board approved public or private agency staff development programs.

The changes suggested for Chapter 850-X-2 failed but will be reintroduced with changes to the language. Be watching your mail for another announcement giving the date and place of the next Public Hearing. The Board will be printing new Administrative Codes after the conclusion of the next public hearing. When the new Code is available it will be mailed to each licensee. The Code will also be updated to the website.





The Public Hearing – Feb. 23, 2007 “*In-depth*” by Paula S. Clark, LBSW

The Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Rules was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Bill Garrett, Assistant Attorney General, was present for the Board; six of the seven Board members were present, and many interested parties attended from throughout the State. The first action taken was to read the proposed changes and invite comment on each, beginning with the Definitions, Chapter 850-X-2. There was virtually no discussion on the first few changes that were minor and primarily designed to provide clarification of terminology. There was, however, a great deal of discussion on the proposed change to Section (4) Private Independent Practice, which would have required two (2) years full-time or three (3) years part-time postgraduate experience after receiving the LCSW in the specific social work method in which the applicant would practice. Please note the words “under appropriate supervision” were struck as a misprint and were never intended to be included in the proposed change. The intent of the Board was to ensure that any practitioner who receives a PIP has a minimum of two full years of actual work experience in the area of certification before they could “hang out a shingle” to practice independently and was completely guided by our mandate to protect the public. I believe the Board was very surprised by the amount of controversy this proposed change engendered. We heard from several licensees who felt as though such a change would, in effect, “punish” practitioners who had many years of similar type work prior to receipt of the LCSW. We heard that such an additional work requirement would disincline older students from pursuing a career in Social Work if achieving a PIP was their ultimate goal, and that making the requirements more stringent was not in the “best interest” of the profession because some students might decide if Social Work was going to require such a time commitment they might as well become psychology students(!). We also heard some valid arguments for further study of the issue, such as reviewing any empirical evidence that an additional two years of practice would in fact have a positive effect on the safety of the public and whether the desired outcome could be achieved in some other, less restrictive manner. I found it thrilling to be a part of the process of change at work and although sentiments were strong on this issue, we came through it with the spirit of Social Workers: listening, learning and adapting.

We continued by reading the additional proposed changes, which did not spur much in the way of discussion or dissention, for which we were grateful. I feel it necessary to point out, as did our Board Chair, Jason Cowart, during the Hearing that the changes proposed today are the result of over five years of consideration by the Board and were not lightly conceived or proposed. In fact, this Board has attempted for the previous two years to effect changes in the law governing our Rules, but has not been successful in getting such changes through the Legislature. Our work on the Administrative Code represents our continuing commitment to this effort. Keep in mind that the Board is a regulatory body

Continued: Public Hearing - February 23, 2007

charged with protecting the public, so when we are acting as Board members we must wear our “regulatory hats.”

“the adopted changes will go into effect April 12, 2007.”

Mr. Garrett advised us that the procedure for changing any Rule requires that the entire Rule be adopted as changed. We called for final discussion and began the vote. The change was not approved on Chapter 850-X-2. This means that the controversial change to the PIP requirement does not go into effect, nor do any of the other changes to that Chapter. The remainder of the Rule changes were adopted by unanimous vote and have now been submitted to the Legislative Reference Office. Unless challenged by Legislative review the adopted changes will go into effect April 12, 2007. You can view the specifics on our website: www.socialwork.alabama.gov. I believe that some very positive changes have been adopted and look forward to seeing them evolve into practice.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this process. My time on your Board continues to be a challenge and an honor.

Paula S. Clark, LBSW



“Ramona has 18 years of service working with the State of Alabama.”

Meet Ramona Smith

Ramona has been working for the Board since February 16, 2007. She has been assigned the task of verifying CE Programs and processing Licensure Renewals. Many of you have had the pleasure of speaking with Ramona by telephone or email. A call from Ramona is not what you want however! Even though she is a very pleasant person to speak with, the subject of her telephone call may not be as pleasant.

Ramona has 18 years of service working with the State of Alabama. She transferred to the Board from Retirement Systems of Alabama where she was a Retirement Counselor. Prior to her employment with RSA, she was with the State Insurance Department. Before Ramona began her career with the State, she was a school teacher with Montgomery and Chambers Counties. Her background as a teacher helps keep us in order here in the office. (She keeps a ruler in her desk - I've seen it)

We are very happy she decided to join us at the Board.

New Licensees

New LBSW's

4320B	FAULKNER	MARTINA	A	FEB 2007	WATERLOO
4321B	WEBB-ROBINSON	KIANA	L	FEB 2007	PELL CITY
4322B	FRAZIER	ADRIANE	S	FEB 2007	AUBURN
4323B	PALMER	ADRIENNE	M	FEB 2007	MONTGOMERY
4324B	ROTHE	LINDSEY	S	FEB 2007	MOODY
4325B	THOMPSON	REGENIA	B	FEB 2007	BIRMINGHAM
4326B	UHLMAN	TONI	W	FEB 2007	CHEROKEE
4327B	ESSIX	CATINA	L	FEB 2007	MERIDIAN
4328B	REID	MANUELA	L	FEB 2007	LAS VEGAS
4329B	DOWDELL	STEPHANIE		FEB 2007	TUSCALOOSA
4330B	FARMER	MELITA	M	FEB 2007	ENTERPRISE
4331B	HANKINS	GENTALENE	D	FEB 2007	BIRMINGHAM
4332B	KNOPPS	MELISSA	S	FEB 2007	FLAT ROCK
4333B	SEARS	SHONA	J	FEB 2007	WETUMPKA
4334B	ALLEN	MARLITA	M	MAR 2007	BIRMINGHAM
4335B	FITE	ANDREA	D	MAR 2007	PINSON
4336B	GLASS	SARAH	L	MAR 2007	LINDEN
4337B	MCCARTNEY	SHELLEY	A	MAR 2007	AUBURN
4338B	THOMAS	KANEDRA	S	MAR 2007	TUSCALOOSA
4339B	TIPPETT	PATRICIA	J	MAR 2007	ALEXANDRIA
4340B	RAY	MONA	P	MAR 2007	TUSCUMBIA
4341B	KEY-JOHNSON	STEPHANIE	K	MAR 2007	PRATTVILLE
4342B	KIRKLAND	KRISTIN	N	MAR 2007	SOUTHSIDE
4343B	LUSTER	SHEENA	L	MAR 2007	JASPER
4344B	PICKETT	JENNIFER	D	MAR 2007	LEEDS
4345B	TALLON	WENDY	I	APR 2007	CAPSHAW
4346B	BALIUS-APARICIO	AIMEE	A	APR 2007	HOOVER
4347B	BATY	VONDA	L	APR 2007	HANCEVILLE

New LGSW's

2250G	DUBOSE	ANGELIA	L	FEB 2007	MOBILE
2251G	BENNETT	MELINDA	L	FEB 2007	TUSCALOOSA
2252G	HARRIS	BRIAN	M	FEB 2007	VESTAVIA HILLS
2253G	PEERSON	SARAH	R	FEB 2007	BIRMINGHAM
2254G	GIBBS	FELICIA	M	FEB 2007	MOBILE
2255G	GREEN-WHITT	JIMMIE		FEB 2007	ADAMSVILLE
2256G	HINES	MARGARITA		FEB 2007	BIRMINGHAM
2257G	MAGUIRE	JEAN	E	FEB 2007	LULING
2258G	BLAIR	ABIGAIL	H	FEB 2007	BIRMINGHAM
2259G	HOOKS	DEBORAH	L	FEB 2007	GROVE HILL
2260G	LAPIDUS	ALISSA	C	FEB 2007	HUNTSVILLE
2261G	WEBER	LISA	L	FEB 2007	MOBILE
2262G	SCOTT	MICHELLE		MAR 2007	TALLADEGA
2263G	TUBBS	LACEY	N	MAR 2007	TUSCALOOSA
2264G	OVERHOLT	KIMBERLY	K	MAR 2007	ARDMORE
2265G	PERRY	BETTY		MAR 2007	BIRMINGHAM
2266G	GARRETT	JAIME	R	MAR 2007	BIRMINGHAM
2267G	BELL	STEPHANIE	H	APR 2007	HAMPTON COVE
2268G	DAVIS	JEANNETTE	R	APR 2007	MADISON
2269G	GAY	JANESHIKA	L	APR 2007	MOBILE
2270G	HYDEN	KIMBERLY	E	APR 2007	PELHAM
2271G	SHARP	MABLE	L	APR 2007	WARD

New LCSW's

2050C	CALLAHAN	MARIA	R	FEB 2007	FAIRHOPE
2051C	BEALE	ANN	H	FEB 2007	AUBURN
2052C	WATTS	ALYCE	O	FEB 2007	ROBERTSDALE
2053C	MELMAN	TSIPORA	D	FEB 2007	YARDLEY
2054C	TRENT	MICHON	D	FEB 2007	MOBILE
2055C	COOK	THERESA	L	FEB 2007	PELL CITY
2056C	MCMAHON JR	JOHN	T	FEB 2007	COLUMBUS
2057C	TURNER	CARLA	A	FEB 2007	ALABASTER
2058C	FOWLER	JARRETT	B	MAR 2007	MCCALLA
2059C	HENRY	ANNA	H	MAR 2007	HUNTSVILLE
2060C	PARKER	NICOLE	L	MAR 2007	TALLADEGA
2061C	WHITT	RANDY	E	MAR 2007	SOUTHSIDE
2062C	PRINCE	TIMOTHY	J	APR 2007	MOBILE
2063C	SPARKS	LINDSEY	T	APR 2007	HUNTSVILLE
2064C	COODY	AMY	K	APR 2007	BIRMINGHAM
2065C	HICKMAN JR	JAMES	L	APR 2007	DECATUR
2066C	SHANAHAN	CARO	K	APR 2007	BIRMINGHAM

New PIP's

0799-2034C	ESTLE, KELLY	SATSUMA	JAN 2007
0800-2020C	FINLEY, JEM	HOMEWOOD	JAN 2007
0801-2006C	HALES, LESLIE D.	ADAMSVILLE	JAN 2007
0802-1941C	IVKER, BARRY	BIRMINGHAM	JAN 2007
0803-1853C	NICHOLS, LUCY C.	BIRMINGHAM	JAN 2007
0804-2043C	SAVAGE, JENNIFER J.	JACKSONVILLE	JAN 2007
0805-2040C	SWEETAPPLE, JAN L.	ALABASTER	JAN 2007
0806-0998C	BRUNSON, SUSAN L.	BIRMINGHAM	FEB 2007
0807-2041C	CLAYBORN, ESOPHIA J.	HUNTSVILLE	FEB 2007
0808-2047C	FREDERICK, SANDRA L.	CORDOVA	FEB 2007
0809-1695C	LLINAS, TERRI O.	HUNTSVILLE	FEB 2007
0810-1705C	LOGAN, KAY K.	MOBILE	FEB 2007
0811-1931C	NADLER, NAN L.	BIRMINGHAM	FEB 2007
0812-2054C	TRENT, MICHON D.	MOBILE	FEB 2007
0813-2011C	TUCKER, MARY E.	TUSCALOOSA	FEB 2007
0814-1903C	WILSON, SUSAN C.	BIRMINGHAM	FEB 2007

Please remember that all address changes must be in writing!

It may be Mailed, Faxed or Emailed.

Thank You.

Board of Social Work Examiners

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.abswe.state.al.us

Board Positions Coming Up

There will be two board positions up for election September 2007, one for District 2 and the other for District 5. Both members currently serving in these positions are eligible to return. The openings are for an LCSW and an LGSW. Maps for the Districts will be posted on our web site on the Bulletin Board. We will be accepting nomination letters for these openings from June 1 until August 15. The letters must be submitted from licensees living in the same district as the person they are nominating.

Pre-Approved CE Programs

Please remember all CE programs must be pre-approved. We cannot "*pre-approve*" a program after it's been attended. For your convenience, we have posted every program we've approved on the website under "Approved CE Programs". Also the list of "Approved CE Providers" is updated regularly. Be sure to check these lists before registering for any programs to save you frustration later.

Alabama to Host the ASWB Educational Meeting April 26-29, 2007

The ASWB educational meeting is being held in Mobile this year. Representatives from the ASWB considered Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, Gulf Shores and Mobile and selected Mobile to be the site. We're delighted that the ASWB has accepted our invitation to come to the state for this national meeting. The last time the conference was held in Alabama was 10 years ago in Gulf Shores. Hopefully, the azaleas in Mobile will still be in bloom for all to see.

While the ASWB is in Mobile, the task force assigned to study the exam's pass/fail rate will be meeting with their representatives. The ASWB is the developer and owner of the social work examination used in most states.

ABSWE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

